Hog Lake

FISHTRAP

Recreation Area

If you're looking for scenic views, hiking trails, or favorite fishing spots, then spend some time at Fishtrap.

Bureau of Land Management

FISHTRAP

Fishtrap

Fishtrap has over 7,000 acres of public land managed by the Bureau of Land Management. This area is managed for its important wildlife habitat, as well as recreational opportunities.

Here you'll find various habitats--from pine forest, to shrub-steppe, and Palouse grassland. Other features include several wetlands, numerous meadows, and basalt cliffs. There are also two major lakes – Fishtrap and Hog.

Getting There

Fishtrap is just a 30-mile drive southwest of Spokane, Washington. From Interstate 90, take Exit 254, then travel east for 1.75 miles to the public land access.

Geology

The Fishtrap area is part of the Channeled Scablands of eastern Washington. This area is named for the trenches and outcrops of ragged, scarred rock interspersed with wet meadows and wheat fields. This landscape was carved by the Great Missoula Ice Age Floods that scoured the region about 12,000 years ago.

Recreational Activities

Many opportunities await you here--wildlife viewing, mountain biking, hiking, fishing, hunting, and horseback riding. There's even an opportunity for winter fishing for rainbow trout at Hog Lake (check with the Washington State Department of Fish & Wildlife for seasonal fishing rules). Camping is allowed, but there are no developed campsites.

Hike along 14 miles of primitive trails that meander near Fishtrap and Hog lakes. You'll wind through a gently sloping forest and pass by small ponds, wetlands, and rock outcrops.

Wildflowers

A good place to start your wildflower search is on the trail to Farmer's Landing. Numerous spring flowers will grab your attention. Bold, yellow flowers of balsamroot dot the uplands. Camas blossoms carpet wetter areas with rich blue colors. Flowering white serviceberry lines cliff edges. Purple and white lupines bloom, almost everywhere.

In early summer, you may spot elkhorn clarkia. Its eye-catching pink petals resemble a rack of elk or deer antlers. Explore rocky side canyons to discover floral treasures such as bitterroot, often called "rock rose."

Watchable Wildflower guides are available at BLM offices in Spokane and Wenatchee. Also bring along your camera to take photos, not flowers, so the next visitors can enjoy the flowers, too.

Wildlife

Wherever there is water, there is wildlife to watch. Stop at Smick Meadows where many different birds flock throughout the four seasons. Wetlands are especially vibrant with bird songs in the spring time. From the viewing station, catch a glimpse of Northern shoveler and spotted sandpiper.

Coot, mallard, black tern, and killdeer nest and rear their young throughout the summer. American kestrel and prairie falcon also nest nearby. Any time of the year, you might see great-horned owl, red-tailed hawk, and red-breasted nuthatch. This is a great place for birding enthusiasts!

Amphibians, too, make their homes in wetlands. Listen carefully to hear tree frogs chorusing during spring breeding season. Sometimes you might see a long-toed or tiger salamander, spotted frog, and spadefoot toad. Look for egg masses and tadpoles around wetland edges, or for a frog splashing into the water as you walk by.

Cultural

For the thousands of years, a wide variety of vegetation and abundant wildlife found at Fishtrap provided Native Americans with food, medicine, and spiritual uses.

Explorers, traders, and settlers to this region converted the landscape in the late 1800s and 1900s to farms, ranches, and small communities. Folsom Farm, with its few remaining buildings, is an example of that time period.

"We hope you enjoy your visit to the Fishtrap area. Come back again."

For more information, contact:
Spokane BLM District
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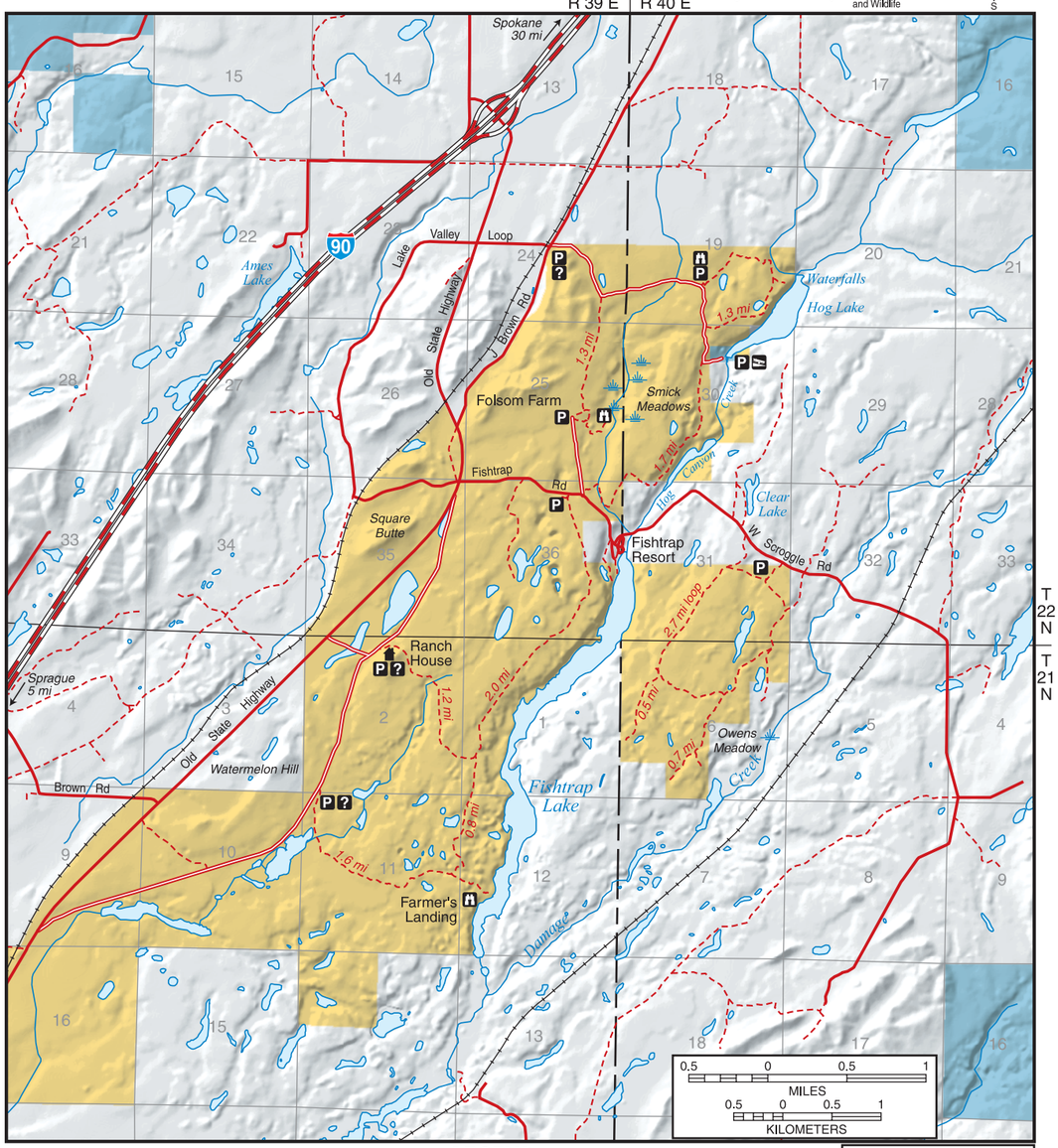
Phone: 509/536-1200

Check our website for other recreational opportunities and periodic updates: www.or.blm.gov/spokane

BLM/OR/WA/GI-03/012-1122

FISHTRAP

Recreation Opportunities: Boating, Canoeing, Fishing, Hiking, Mountain Biking, Hunting, Horseback Riding, Watchable Wildflowers and Wildlife



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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

LEGEND

- BLM Administered Land
- State Land
- Other
- Parking
- Information
- Boat Launch
- Wetland
- Interstate Highway
- Access Route
- Improved Road
- Other Road or Foot Trail Access as Designated
- Railroad

It is unlawful to trespass on private lands. State hunting and fishing regulations apply to private lands. Landowners are not required to post or fence their lands. Check with private landowners before entering their property.

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